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1997/06/29

Townsend, MAJ, J514, 0135

From: Fleming, Brig Gen, J50, 7682
To: Byers, LtCol, J51, 0824; Townsend, MAJ, J514, 0135
Cc: Daniel, CDR, J5, 7684
Subject: RE: Incoming Message from DATT China
Date: Monday, June 30, 1997 5:35AM

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Steve - thx for update. Re transparency "concerns," I fully concur in your analysis to Eichenberry. Also believe it ain't half bad for them to see how we do business - doubt they come close - may do a lot for deterrence without giving them something useful from standpoint of being able to counter it.
Bottom line: there's more to this than reciprocity.

From: Townsend, MAJ, J514, 0135
To: Byers, LtCol, J51, 0824
Cc: Daniel, CDR, J5, 7684; Fleming, Brig Gen, J50, 7682
Subject: Incoming Message from DATT China
Date: Sunday, June 29, 1997 2:28PM
Priority: High

CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATTACHED USDAO 300337Z

Sir,

FYI, a heads up. Expecting a message from BG Byrnes to CINC NLT today giving his inputs on specific events on LTG Wu itinerary. This is in response to my requests to DAO and JS/OSD for final approval of detailed itinerary.

Bottom Line:

Note below, FYI, is follow-up to initial request for inputs that I sent out last Thursday. It summarizes views of myself and DAO Beijing (Eikenberry's interim replacement, Randy Schriver, is currently in Beijing as well and probably had input to BG Byrnes message when it comes).

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VR, ST.

From: Townsend, MAJ, J514, 0135
To: Eikenberry, Karl, COL, OSD/ISA; Durkin, Mike, CDR, JS J5; OSD-China (secure); Schriver, Randy, OSD
Cc: Byers, LtCol, J51, 0824
Subject: Request for Feedback--WU Transparency/Reciprocity Issues
Date: Sunday, June 29, 1997 2:25PM
Priority: High

CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MARK STOKES PLEASE FORWARD TO RANDY SCHRIVER AND CDR MIKE DURKIN, JS J5

Aloha,

Friday spoke with DAO Beijing (COL Wolf) who met with Randy and BG Byrnes to discuss itinerary for LTG Wu visit focusing on transparency and reciprocity issues.

Expecting BG Byrnes to send CINC message NLT Monday outlining his views of itinerary since it has been fleshed out by hosting units. As you recall, we asked for chop on following specific events:

- Tour USS Coronado, C2/Flagship off San Diego, 14 July, during JTFEX
- Tour Regional Air Operations Center, Elmendorf AFB, AK, 16 July
- Tour F15E squadron and simulator, Elmendorf AFB, 16 July

Since requesting chop have received final proposal from CNB San Diego/C3F including following items.

- Tour Aegis Cruiser or DDG TBD, in port
- Tour SSN TBD, in port
- Tour USS Kitty Hawk, in port

Were expecting carrier tour, Aegis Cruiser/DDG tour shouldn't be a problem, but SSN tour is new on schedule for this visit--plenty of precedence for all three events, having done all with Chinese before.

Summary of DAO Beijing's assessment: Tour F15E sqdrn/simulator OK. DATT recommends do either carrier or Coronado tour but not both. Recommends delete tour of RAOC due to previous lack of PLA transparency with regards to command centers. Haven't addressed SSN or Aegis/DDG tour with them yet.

Need your chop on all events (know you are already working first three). Will brief CINC Tuesday morning and want to present views of ALCON for his consideration.

Understand concerns about reciprocity and transparency--especially from DAO Beijing's perspective since they are frustrated by issue on daily basis. However, not sure we agree on approach to take. Must keep in mind that one of US objectives for visit (acknowledged but not shared with PLA) is to demonstrate US military professionalism and prowess (ie, we can take your lunch money if we want).

Anticipate that J5 and CINC will consider all views/inputs then weigh in for events they feel strongly about.

Unfortunately, in mixup of communications between COL Wolf and myself, I faxed Chinese embassy in DC a copy of new itinerary that included first three events under consideration (Coronado, F15E, RAOC). They called asking for updated itinerary and COL Wolf, not knowing I had updated it with new issues, OK'd me to send it. Due to youth and inexperience, didn't dawn on me that I still hadn't received OSD concurrence for events. COL Wolf called me back after seeing new version to tell me not to send it but it was too late. Bottom Line: Whatever we strike now, Chinese will know it (They don't yet know about carrier, SSN, Aegis/DDG tours so no appearance problems adjusting these).

Maybe isn't all bad because, though we will have to explain change, it probably won't be lost on Chinese that we have deliberately decided not to show them something. Might even be in our interest to tell them directly that we have cut RAOC because they have refused to show us command centers.

Personally, I'm a bit puzzled by our complaints with PLA transparency. I know they deny our specific requests and sometimes attempt to mislead us with their reasons. But when Chinese show CJCS an airborne unit that reportedly has never been visited by a foreigner, we complain that what he saw was off little value (too hollywood, too well-dressed, too rehearsed). Our assessment was little transparency, but if no foreign dignitary had visited before (we didn't dispute PLA's assertion), what was Chinese opinion of their transparency?

In comparison, 25th ID (L) will show LTG Wu an infantry combined arms live fire exercise. We know 25th is no show unit, but what do Chinese think? We always take visitors to see it. We know that exercise is not staged for their benefit, it is previously scheduled training--but what will Chinese think? You can bet that particular iteration Chinese view will be well rehearsed, soldiers well dressed, and area well policed--what will Chinese think? I think their opinion will be that a special unit was selected, rehearsed, and demonstrated for their benefit--what's their view of our transparency?

With regards to reciprocity, maybe we should be more direct. Remind them they have seen our NMCC and Command Center at USPACOM and until they show us something similar, no more visits to our command centers. Will show them all live fires, ships, and airplanes they want to see but no more command posts until we've seen one of theirs.

Anyway, that's just me, an admittedly untrained and inexperienced China FAO, applying the only tool I have--plain common sense--towards trying to understand our relationship with PLA. Take it for what it's worth.

Looking forward to your input on specific events and a great visit with LTG Wu's delegation.

VR, ST.